REDBIRD WORD

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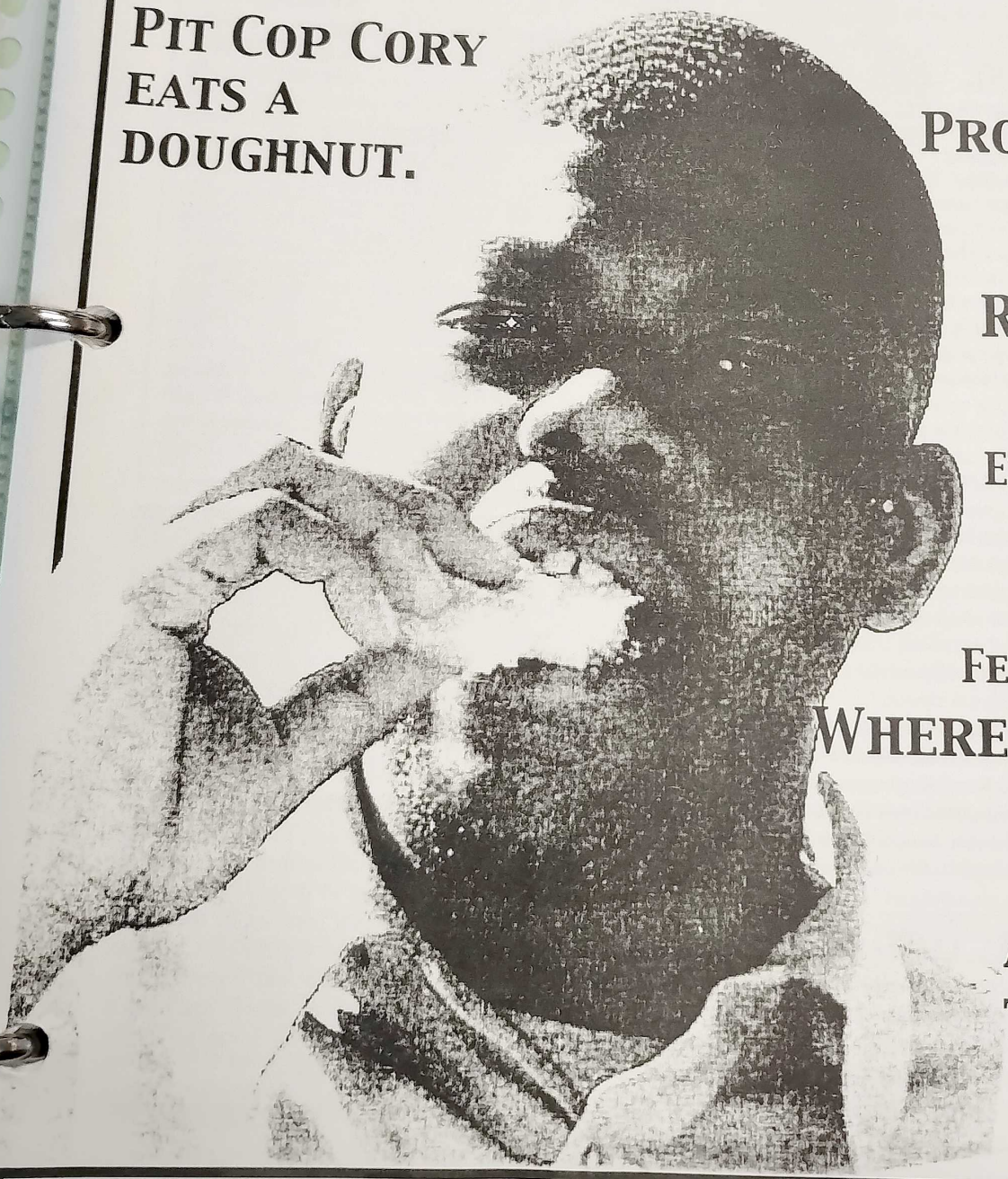
APRIL FOOLS EDITION

RBW PARTICIPATES IN STEREOTYPES.



PIT COP CORY EATS A DOUGHNUT.

NEWS
PROPOSITION A

HUMOR
REALITY TV

ENTERTAINMENT
*NSYNC

FEATURES
WHERE'S WADLOW?

SPORTS
ALTON GOES TO STATE

ALTON HIGH SCHOOL 2200 COLLEGE AVE. ALTON, IL 62002

It's All About Me

Warning: Editor's Note

Be advised that this is the April Fools' Edition of The RedBird Word. Some of the content in this edition may be satirical and completely fictional, while the rest is actually true. Please take this into account while reading. Thank you.

Alton Declining: Less People, Business and Attractions

By Kelly Lappin
Editor-in-Chief

It's no secret that Alton is not growing, or even living up to what it used to be. The population has actually decreased in the past decade, and so has business (despite many failed attempts to revive it). So far nothing seems to be working. We are losing our people, and our history.

The problem is, everyone is focusing on how to bring more people *into* this town. Instead, we should look at the problem with the people who are already here.

It seems that the people of Alton are trying to keep people out. Any popular attractions we have end up disgraced or disappearing. For instance, the Piasa Bird is one of the most well-known aspects of Alton's history, yet it has been relocated and replaced by a bad painting. Instead of being treated like the historically important symbol (not to mention tourist attraction) it is, the *real* Piasa Bird I'll remember from childhood is in storage somewhere like an old eight-track collection.

To add to Alton's troubles, as you may read later in this paper, the Robert Wadlow statue has been stolen. Why would anyone else want to come to a town whose own people would steal one of the few historical attractions it has left? Then again, maybe Alton's most famous citizen just walked away in shame of his town's lack of spirit. We could probably find him in Edwardsville.

Retraction

The RedBird Word would like to apologize for a mistake that was printed in the Leprechaun Letters which were handed out with the February edition. The letter to Blaine Everage should have said from Trish, not Toni Miller. We are sorry for any confusion.

RedBird Word
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Our Mission For 2001

Our mission as journalists of the RedBird Word is to bring you, the students, the who, what, when, where, and why of the news. Aside from the facts we will strive to enlighten and entertain. This is a paper for the students, created by the students, so as your voice, help us be heard.

Letters to the Editor

What Do You Think?

The RedBird Word staff wants to hear from you. If you have any questions, comments about a story, or want a refund, let us know. Feel free to drop your letter by Room 401, put it in Mrs. Brave's mailbox in the Main Office, or send an e-mail to the Editor-in-Chief at klappin@journalist.com. Also, clubs and organizations who would like to advertise events or awards can have a club sponsor or member contact us. We'll run an ad for your activity for FREE, just let us know!

cover photo by Audrey Hinrichs

High School, Real World or Dream World?

By Laura Smock
Photographer

You come to a certain point in your life when you realize that for once you have to make a decision on your own, one of those life altering, future effecting decisions. Although you have been preparing for this day for years by gaining knowledge, experience and culture no one is ever ready for it. From day one parents, relatives and family friends have discussed how you're going to be something, you're going to be someone but you never accept the full extent of these words until you are forced in to making the decision, the decision that every student dreads: what to do with your life after high school.

For years we are groomed, educated and cultured into the people that we are expected to be. We have grown from experiences and our surroundings to become who we are today, but can any of us give a straight answer to who we really are? Maybe we can't because we refuse to move on with our lives or maybe we can't because deep down inside none of us know. Four years of our lives were spent in a place that is most known for its cliques, where people spend all of their time becoming who they are not, and living up to the stereotype of being popular. We do this because we want to please others, because conformity is all we know and we crave acceptance, but never because it's what we want. So maybe we lose ourselves, who we are and what we stand for, in high school.

Is it really worth it in the long run, to become so indecisive and unopinionated that we can't make a decision on our own about our future? Will it really matter in 20 years who was the prom queen, the cheerleader, the star basketball player or that really nerdy kid that sat behind you in psych that you never knew his name. No it won't, so why do we care so much, why do we let others change and alter us in such a way? Why do we allow ourselves to become so shallow that we rely on others to shape and mold ourselves, our personalities, and our style? No one has all of the answers and only you can decide who you are and what you want out of life. Until then you are living in a fantasy world created to provide diversion from the real world: it's called high school.

Pop Culture

By Catharine McNelly
Music Entertainment Editor

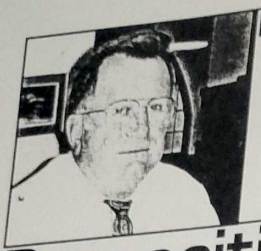
Pop culture is everywhere, especially among today's youth. Few people have yet to recognize names like Britney, Ricky, Christina, Justin and Eminem. From MTV to awards shows to the tabloids, these famed fabricated faces are unavoidable. Open up an issue of Rolling Stone magazine, and you will quickly learn the meaning of pop culture. Let's face it pop sells. Big time. And with fame comes criticism. Lots of criticism.

Take for instance some of the clothes, or lack thereof, these female artists wear. Who can forget Britney Spears' striptease on the MTV 2000 Music Video Awards? Just imagine how many mothers were probably saying to themselves, "I would never let my daughter out of the house looking like that!" Not enough. It seems everywhere you turn, you see pre-teen-aged girls trying to grow up entirely too fast: caked on makeup, overwhelmingly large hoop earrings and itty-bitty clothes.

Another topic not short of criticism has been the explicit lyrics of rapper Eminem. The release of the *Marshall Mathers LP* in May of 2000 has prompted nonviolence and gay rights activists to protest against the Detroit rapper. For musicians like Eminem who write their own lyrics, their words are a form of art. The 2001 Grammy Awards was perhaps one of the most controversial music events in a long time. Aside from Eminem's four nominations, the rapper performed his single "Stan" with openly gay musician Elton John. Throughout the show, nearly 50 people stood outside the Staples Center in Los Angeles in protest holding signs bearing the words "AWARD MUSIC, NOT HATE." Most likely, a small percentage of people who listen to Eminem have heard of groups like Cannibal Corpse and Carcass. Compared to these groups, Eminem is an angel, however, since Eminem carries more fame with him, his lyrics have received the most criticism.

Pop music and pop culture is 'in,' and it has been 'in' for many years. During the 60's, the Beatles were one of the most influential pop groups to emerge. It is easy to see why some compare the British four with boy bands of today like *NSYNC and the Backstreet Boys. When we are 30-years-old, will we look back on today's boy bands with as much admiration as people currently see the Beatles? Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on how you would like to look at it, pop is here to stay.

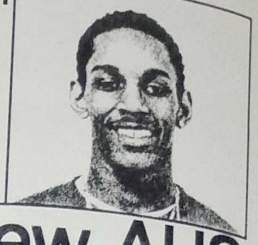
March 2001



RBW

NEWS

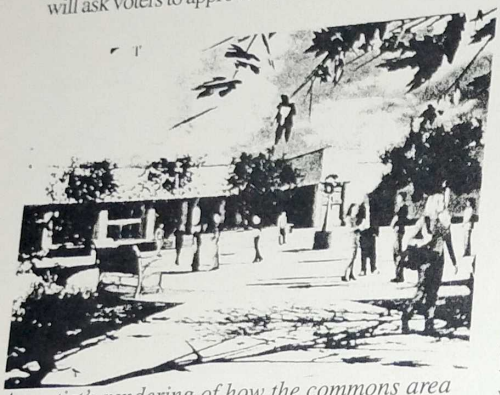
AHS-USA-World



Proposition A Could Bring a New AHS

By Erin DeBlass

On April 3, the Alton School District will ask voters to approve a $34 million bond issue. This will initiate Phase Two of the district reconfiguration plan.



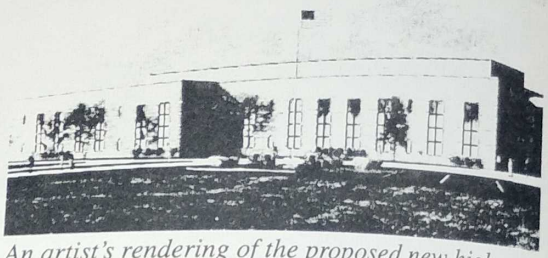
An artist's rendering of how the commons area in the proposed new high school will look.

The reconfiguration plan, which began with the 2000-2001 school year, addresses decreasing student enrollment and an escalating deficit. "We want to start a significant decrease in the accumulated deficit," said Superintendent James Baiter, as reported in *The Telegraph*.

Phase One of the plan involved the closure of Irving, Thomas Jefferson, Clara Barton, Godfrey and McKinley schools. These schools were determined to be inefficient to operate. West Middle School also became an elementary school. This plan has saved the district $1.1 million in operating costs, most coming from salaries.

If voters approve Proposition A, Phase Two will be implemented. This is expected to save the district an additional $650,000.

Proposition A is a 12.5 cent tax increase to fund a renovation project for a new high school. Proposition A also includes the renovation of other schools in the district, including the current high school buildings and the installation of air conditioning in all of the district's schools.



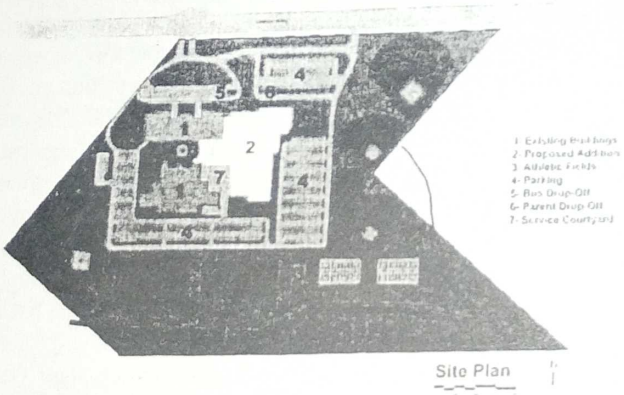
An artist's rendering of the proposed new high school.

The new high school will be built at an estimated cost of $46 million. A state grant will supply 20 percent of the cost. The current J.B. Johnson Center, at 4200 Humbert Road, will be used as the primary location. The plan incorporates the use of the two existing buildings and the construction of a third building connecting them.

The new high school will feature elevators for the handicapped, a new cafeteria, new gym and athletic fields.

The current high school would become the new middle school. The old middle schools would serve as elementary schools.

The school board hopes to complete Phase Two by the 2003 school year.



A site map of the proposed new high school.

Dead Language Resurrected at AHS

By Audrey Hinrichs
Business Editor

The Curriculum Council recently voted in favor of adding Latin to the variety of course study available at Alton High. Latin will be instituted in the 2001-2002 school year.

Latin will be the fourth foreign language taught at AHS next year. Latin 1 introduces students to vocabulary and grammar, while increasing understanding of the English language. First year Latin will emphasize writing and reading the language since Latin is not spoken anywhere. Latin 1 includes study of classical mythology and Roman history, customs and lifestyles.

Latin 2 is an extensive review of vocabulary. The course includes studies focusing on Julius Caesar's life and political career. Latin 3 Prose Honors is an in-depth study of the orator Cicero, the history of Sullest and the letters of Pliny. Latin 4 Poetry Honors covers the poet Vergil, as well as his famous poem the "Aeneid." By this time, students will have broadened their vocabulary through assigned reading and have obtained an extensive understanding of Latin derivatives.

Vice-Mayor Gets the Vote

By Erin McCann
Managing Editor

At the last minute, the Illinois state government has voted to put a vice-mayor position on the upcoming ballot in addition to the traditional mayor position.

Strangely, the nominees for Alton are both teachers at Alton High. Ron Enloe and Susan Eastman will both be running.

"We feel that the vice-mayor position is incredibly important to cities in this state," says State Representative Laurence Fishburn, "A vice-mayor will help to relieve the actual mayor of some of the time consuming responsibilities of mayordom."

The new vice-mayor will take charge of all dealings with bridge openings and trash-pick-up issues, leaving the mayor more time to deal with the cities peace keeping efforts, military orders, and foreign affairs.

This change will affect students at Alton High, some of whom will be voting in that election.

"Right now many students at Alton High don't know who our mayor is," said one Alton High junior who prefers to remain unnamed. "I think that it will be good to have a vice-mayor. That will push the real mayor into the mainstream, and give students a chance to not know who someone else is."

The vice-mayoral position is only being filled for a trial period of three months. The nominations for this category can be found on the ballot directly under the nominations for State Proctologist.

Teachers Tackle Real Issues

By Erin McCann and David Fitzgerald

Because candidates for vice-mayor were announced at such a late date, the RedBird Word Staff has taken the liberty of interviewing both Mr. Enloe and Mrs. Eastman about their political views.

Enloe

RBW Why did you decide to run for the position?
Enloe I was confused about what the word "vice" meant.
RBW Why are you more qualified than your opponent?
Enloe I have experienced more "vice" than she has.
RBW If you and your opponent were on "Survivor" who would survive the longest and why?
Enloe Oh, I would! I'm meaner and sneakier. She'd be out in the first round.
RBW What vegetable do you best relate yourself to?
Enloe (laughing) Asparagus. I think that it is the most sensual of the vegetables.
RBW And what vegetable do you most relate your opponen...
Enloe Corn! The name "corn" itself brings up a vision of her.
RBW What is your favorite Zoo animal?
Enloe The Panda, because of the softness.
RBW Have you ever had the opportunity to touch a Panda?
Enloe Never a real one. When I am Vice-Mayor, I will bring one to Alton. I think that the Panda is a great symbol. It will also help with our trade relationship with China.
RBW What are your feelings on shag carpet?
Enloe I think it should be banned from the universe along with Leisure Suits. Does anyone still know what they are?
RBW Robert Doyle has a couple.
Enloe Oh your kidding!
RBW For Way-back Wednesday and stuff.
Enloe Oh OK.
RBW What are your views on Onomatopoeia?
Enloe I love them! "Hurumph" is the best. It says a multitude.
RBW How would you recommend we spell that?
Enloe I wouldn't! That's what's so wonderful about it.
RBW What are your feelings on Antidissestablishmentarianism, and how it affects Alton?
Enloe I don't think it does affect us. People can't even say it.

Eastman

RBW How did you react to the addition of this position?
Eastman I feel that the mayor needs a qualified assistant.
RBW Why did you decide to run for Vice-Mayor?
Eastman I think that it will be a unique opportunity for community service.
RBW Why are you more qualified than your opponent?
Eastman I have twelve years of classroom and hall duty in the Annex.
RBW Do you prefer the Beatles or Elvis?
Eastman The Beatles, they had better haircuts and I love that British accent.
RBW If you and your opponent were on "Survivor" who would survive the longest and why?
Eastman I'd never participate, neither the company nor the activities appeal to me.
RBW What vegetable do you best relate yourself to?
Eastman Green beans, they can hold their own in any situation.
RBW And what vegetable do you most relate your opponent to?
Eastman Brussel sprouts, never one to under estimate.
RBW Your opponent relates you to corn.
Eastman He sees me as a typical Midwesterner.
RBW What is your favorite Zoo animal?
Eastman The seal. What a life! Swim whenever you want to, and all the fish you can eat!
RBW What are your feelings on shag carpet?
Eastman Long gone! Yea!
RBW What are your views on Onomatopoeia?
Eastman Hmmm, not in my memory or dictionary, but if it relates to Utopia, forget it.
RBW What are your feelings on Antidissestablishmentarianism, and how it affects Alton?
Eastman A $10 word for ignorance. Change is inevitable, but best accomplished through legal means.

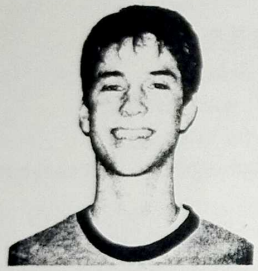
PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS QUESTIONABLE

By Jama Fabry
Features Editor

Article II, Section 2 of the United States Constitution reads, "The President shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment." This simple statement grants the leader of this country ultimate power to clear the records and restore the civil rights of any person he chooses. The controversy surrounding this matter is merely a question of ethics and morals - should one man have the supreme authority to decide the innocence or guilt of another?

In the U.S. and many other countries around the world, it has become tradition that at the end of a president's term they grant as many pardons as possible. Only five days after his impeachment by the House of Representatives, former president Bill Clinton issued 33 pardons. By the time he left office, he had granted 140 pardons and 36 commuter sentences, the majority of which went to people with political connections. They included an accused tax swindler who is the former husband of a major Clinton donor, two felons who paid Clinton's brother-in-law $400,000 to lobby on their behalf and the former president's own half-brother.

Although the U.S. Attorney's Manual sets guidelines that they may support, oppose or take no position on a pardon request, there is nothing to restrict petitioners from applying directly to the president for clemency or to limit his authority to grant it. An executive order in 1893 gave the Justice Department responsibility for processing and screening clemency applications. The only way to truly modify this extremity would be to amend the Constitution, which requires approval from three-fourths of the states. Currently there are no limits on the timing of the presidential pardon and no question of consent on checking and limiting this power by the Senate.

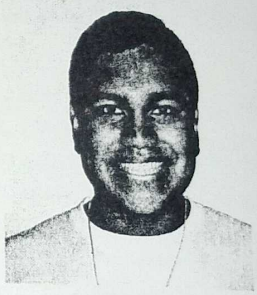


"Presidential Pardons are a tradition that does not correspond with any other laws. They are stupid."-Jon Darr, senior.

"I don't think its fair that the president can pardon his friends and family."-Letecia Slack, junior.

"If someone commits a serious crime it is not fair to be excused."-Ashley Garrison, sophmore.

Photos by Jama Fabry



"Jail is for people who did something against the law and its not fair to let them go free even if the president says they can for helping him out."-David Gillean, freshman.

Ambiguous Spring Holidays Explained

By Jama Fabry
Features Editor

Joyous shouts of "Allright-three day weekend!," "April Fool's!" and "Kiss me, I'm Irish!" can be heard ringing through the hallways around this time of year, but few people ever think about what or why they are celebrating. As spring quickly approaches, any excuse to party is often taken for granted.

Casimir Pulaski was born into politics on March 4, 1747, outside of Warsaw, Poland. Strictly opposed to tyranny, he was unjustly exiled for an attempt and plotting to abduct the king. He found his calling in America fighting for General George Washington, who appointed him general of Calvary. Pulaski helped prevent a military disaster at the battle of Brandywine Creek and was hailed as a hero. He nobly died fighting for American independence at the battle of Savannah in 1779. He remains a symbol of the ideal of valiant resistance to oppression and is honored as a soldier of Liberty for all. He is quoted as saying, " I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it."

March seventeenth is set aside to honor Ireland's patron Saint Patrick. This national hero was born almost 500 years ago and baptized *Patricius*, meaning "noble." At the young age of sixteen he was captured and forced into slavery in Britain. It is not known how he escaped, but he returned to Ireland where he worked for 40 years as a missionary-preaching, baptizing and establishing churches, schools and colleges. Patrick used shamrock leaves to explain the meaning of the Holy Trinity and it is believed that he drove snakes from the country by beating his drum. He brought Christianity to Ireland as well. The first Irish celebrations were extremely noisy, and as Irish immigrants spread around the world they took the tradition with them. In 1762 the first St. Patrick's Day Parade was held in the United States. It established the profound influence that Irish heritage has had on this nation.

RBW

Features

March 2001

Where's Wadlow?

By Jama Fabry
Features Editor

"What a great guy that Bob was. He didn't talk much, but he was always smilin'. I'm gonna miss that man," said junior Micky Mathers.

A tragic crime has shocked and disgruntled the unsuspecting citizens of Alton. The statue of Robert Wadlow, beloved monument of all, was stolen from its usual home on College Avenue. Not only was this statue a landmark, but a piece of Alton's history and character.

Surprised citizens stand at Wadlow's former site.

Optimistic citizens are hoping that this incident is merely an April Fool's Day prank and the statue will be returned when the controversy dies down. Though no suspects have been found, witnesses say that a group of very short people cloaked in black were seen leaving the scene of the crime with a gigantic cardboard box and a crane.

"I just can't believe it. One day he's standing there chillin', bein' all tall, minding his own business, then *BAM*--he's gone. It's just wrong, ya know," said freshman Ashley Ashleymoore.

Streaker Strikes Again

By Stephen Heintz
Humor Editor

Imagine that it is a cold day and all of the freshmen are huddled together on the main steps trying to share warmth. Suddenly there is a loud scream followed by a pink blur jetting through the crowd, moving like a big naked bolt of lightning. That is right, a big *naked* bolt of lightning, more commonly known as a "streaker."

For Alton High students this has been no mere imagination. It has been a very harsh, very real, very nude reality. The past month or so has been filled with frequent visions of a "masked streaker" sprinting from building to building unashamed.

"The first time I saw him, I was all like, 'Woah, naked guy. Pretty weird.' Now it's all like, 'Oh, naked guy again.' He's been doing this a lot," said senior Chris Chrissosky.

"At first it was kinda creepy to see a guy running around wearing nothing but socks and a burlap sack on his head, but now it's just another Alton High thing. Sorta like fights and Pit Cops," said sophomore Susie Susieton.

After a lot of running, a RBW reporter was able to catch up with the streaker. He said, "It's not some sort of perverted activity, ya know.This is a form of artistic expression."

"No it's not, you naked psycho," said the reporter.

"Heh. Yeah, I know. Wheeee!" he said before running off into the sunset.

Perhaps we shall never find the true identity of this masked menace. We can only hope that one day he will put on some pants.

Area Teenagers Caught By Curfew

By Nik Kern

The famous saying "Do the crime, pay the time" has a whole new meaning for teenagers in Alton and Godfrey. Adolescents age 16 and under are now required to be home by 11 p.m. on Sunday-Thursday and midnight on Friday and Saturday. Students who break curfew face tough penalties from the police and their parents.

"Alton Police have been instructed to arrest those in violation," said Lieutenant Jody O'Guinn of the Alton Police Department. "We have no choice but to arrest them," said Captain Bob Hertz of the Madison County Sheriff's office, which patrols Godfrey.

Suspects apprehended by Alton police will be taken to the station and held until their parents arrive. If apprehended by Madison County, their parents will be called to the scene to escort the minor home or the suspect will be transported to the Godfrey sub-station to await arrival. If unruly, argumentative or resistant the suspect will be transported to the County Jail in Edwardsville.

Minors found continuously violating the curfew ordinance in Alton will be arrested along with their parents. Repeated violation of curfew in Godfrey will result in the reference of the minor to juvenile court where a program can be set up between the minor and their parents.

"Slack" will be given in an incident where a minor violates curfew with a legitimate reason such as traveling home from work."We will allow them to continue, we are certainly not going to detain them," said Captain Hertz. Traveling home from a social event such as a movie will be given consideration by the Alton Police Department.

"The officer will call home and check with the parents to make sure that is where they really were. If the parent says yes and explains, then the officer will most likely let them continue on their way," said Lt. O'Guinn.

Madison County has a different view of curfew violation for social events. "It is not an exception," said Captain Hertz.

Even individuals age 17 and older can still be arrested for a violation of curfew. If they are transporting a minor age 16 or younger in violation of the curfew hour and are not their guardians, they can be arrested for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Carnival

The Carnival Comes to AHS

By Julie Strassman
photos by Missy Minton and Alison Hanold

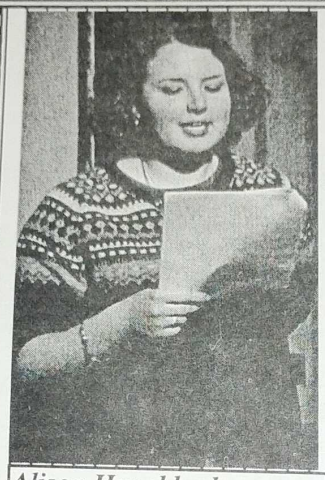
The carnival is coming to Alton High. Or better yet, Carnival the musical. The auditions are over, the cast list is up, and the show is set to go on May 4, 5, and 6.

Carnival, by Bob Merrill, is the story of a naive French orphan, Lili, whose father, before he dies, tells her to go to the carnival and find the man who runs the souvenir stand and he will look after her. Unfortunately, when Lili gets there, she finds the man has died and she has nothing to do but take a job at the carnival.

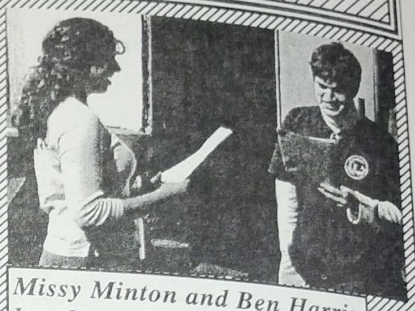
There she meets many interesting and unusual characters, including Paul (Stephen Heintz), an injured ballet dancer turned puppeteer who speaks his mind through his puppets. He secretly falls in love with Lili (Missy Minton), but his abusive attitude repels her. She also meets Paul's friend and assistant, Jacquot (Adam Betz). She is amazed by the talents of Marco the Magnificent (Ben Harris), a magician and aging lady killer who sees Lili as another conquest. Marco's lover, Rosalie (Alison Hanold), attempts to keep him from other women by threatening to marry a doctor with whom she corresponds.

The cast is filled with colorful and interesting characters such as, circus showgirls, the men who move the carnival from town to town, a snake charmer (Julie Strassman) and a pair of Siamese twins, (Heather Baumberger and Sarah Basola).

The show has a fine plot, good music, a wonderful group of realistic and personable characters, and mush promise. Glen Waters Theater director, said, "I've always liked it [Carnival]. It's a nice, fun show to do and with the cast we have, it should be another good production."



Alison Hanold rehearses her lines for Rosalie.



Missy Minton and Ben Harris laugh at their lines.

Stephen Heintz sings "Nobody Likes Me."

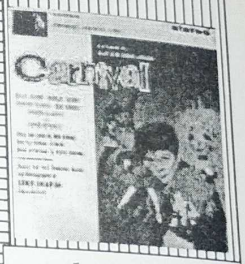
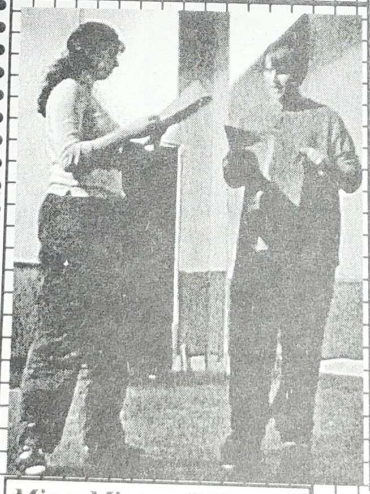


photo courtesy of www.musicalheaven.com



Missy Minton (Lili) and Stpehen Heintz (Paul)

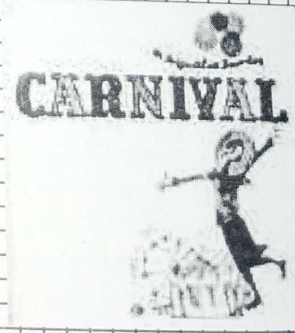


photo courtesy of www.musicalheaven.com

The Bluebird Girls (Circus Showgirls) (l-r) Kari Olgesby, Jennifer Bates, Allison York, Erica Hand, Adrian Nickel, Erika Harris, Danielle Petras, and Jennifer Moats.

Panic Attacks No Laughing Matter

By Kari Oglesby

It can happen anytime and anywhere; when you are alone, with others, at home or in public. Suddenly your heart begins to race, your face flushes and you have trouble breathing. You feel dizzy, nauseated and out of control. Some people even feel like they are dying. You may have experienced a panic attack, a sudden episode of intense fear that prompts physical reactions from your body.

Between 10 and 20 percent of Americans experience a panic attack at some time in their lives. Women are more likely than men to suffer from a panic attack.

Researchers are not sure what causes panic attacks. It is believed that heredity may play a role. The chance of having panic attacks increases if a close family member has suffered from them.

Many researchers believe that the body's natural "fight or flight" response to danger is involved. For example, if a grizzly bear came after you, your body would react instinctively. Your heart rate and breathing would increase as your body readies itself for a life-threatening situation. Many of the same reactions occur in a panic attack. While no obvious stressor is present, something internally trips your body's alarm system.

"All this stress builds up inside of you. You can't control it; you try but it's so overwhelming. Your heart starts beating very fast, you can't breath, your body becomes numb, and you feel like you could die."

-Matthew Maple

Some symptoms of panic attacks include panic, fear of losing control or dying, pounding heartbeat, difficulty breathing, smothering sensation, chest pain or discomfort, tingling or numbness of the skin, choking sensation, sweatiness and nausea to name a few.

Many people think that they are having a heart attack and go to the emergency room. Others try to ignore it, not realizing that they have experienced a panic attack.

"All this stress just builds up inside of you. You can't control it; you try but it's overwhelming. Your heart starts beating really fast, you can't breath, your body becomes numb, freezes up, and you feel like you could die. It's really frightening," said junior Matthew Maple.

If panic attacks are frequent, generally four or more in one month, or if fear of suffering from panic attacks interferes with daily activities, you may suffer from a panic disorder. Panic disorder is a medical disorder characterized by severe or sudden episodes or attacks.

Once dismissed as nerves or stress, a panic attack is now recognized as a potentially disabling but treatable condition.

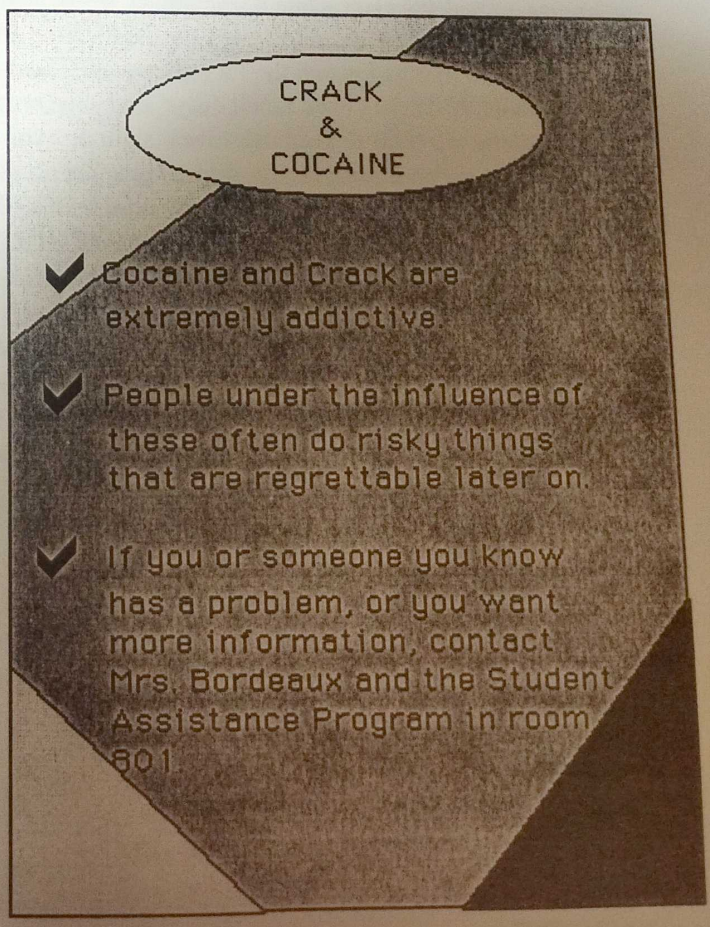
Senioritis Strikes Alton High Students

By Courtney Mathus
Backpage Editor

Are you stressed-out, having a hard time concentrating on homework, relaxing too much or worrying and having an intense desire to party? If so, then you have just been diagnosed with senioritis.

For most students it happens between the beginning of May and graduation, which is set for June first. "I know I've had senioritis since my freshman year," said senior Eric Heischmidt. With the senior's last day rumored to be May 17, senioritis is hitting early this year. "I've had senioritis since last year. All the rude people are driving me nuts!" said senior Adele Lahl.

Seniors who suffer from this "disease" often begin to slack off and attempt to slide through the rest of the semester. "Senioritis is an excuse for being lazy," said senior Joe Scyoc. The feelings of impending freedom from high school cause many students to lose their scholastic focus, especially if they have already received their college acceptances. Many students have learned the hard way that they can only coast for so long before the harsh reality of report cards and detention sets in.


CRACK
&
COCAINE
Cocaine and Crack are extremely addictive.
People under the influence of these often do risky things that are regrettable later on.
If you or someone you know has a problem, or you want more information, contact Mrs. Bordeaux and the Student Assistance Program in room 801.

a day in the cover ste

My Day with Unit Six

By Amy Porter
Cover Story Editor

Anyone with Senioritis right now knows how nice it would be to be able to walk around campus all day, not have any classes and go to McDonalds for lunch if they want. Some people can do that. We call them Pit Cops.

But isn't there more to a Pit Cop's day than this? I spent the day with David "Pit Nazi" McClain to find out just that and to get a few opinions along the way.

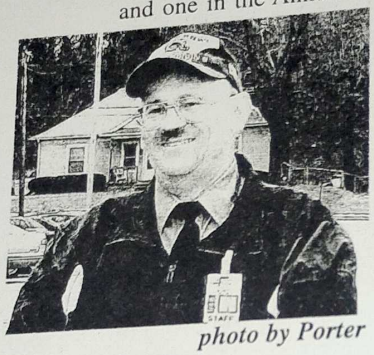


photo by Porter
McClain in the Pit

McClain on his day

"I do security for night school so my days goes from 7 a.m. to 6:15. When the I worked the front Pit I'd average 15 referrals a day. I work the Back Pit now and write one or two in a week. I sub while a class is waiting for the substitute teacher in the mornings, or watch a class while a teacher is talking to Weaver.

"In the mornings I watch the Pit and walk the halls. At 12:30 I have lunch duty. In the cafeteria we want to keep ourselves visible. When we're not as visible things kick off.

"Gates are supposed to go down at 9:45, 10:45, 11:45 and 12:45. If at 9:40 we get a call, we go where we're supposed to go. There are five security officers. There has to be one in the cafeteria at all times and one in the Annex Halls during lunch hours. The others are out here (in the Pit).

"Once the 1:00 bell rings I go down to the park to see if anyone's smoking. I count the money from the cafeteria and deposit it at the bank. A lot of stuff I do isn't written down. I have morning and afternoon bus detail."

**Writer's Note: At 2 p.m. we walked the Olin Halls, then stood and watched the Back Pit as I was mercilessly attacked by a lady bug.*

Most exciting event of the day... Bus 22 got to school at 3:19, not 3:41. Wow.

McClain on ID's

"There are almost 2200 students. If everyone wore an ID, it would tell me on sight that you were supposed to be here and give me access to your name so I don't get a false one. ID's are a good idea if everyone asks for them. After awhile I get tired of asking the same people to put their ID on.

"Teachers are intimidated and afraid of some students. If the rule is ID's are to be on, that's that. A lot of teachers just don't want the hassle. Shoot, half of them are happy to give passes to disruptive kids to get them out of their class. Then we have to put up with them."

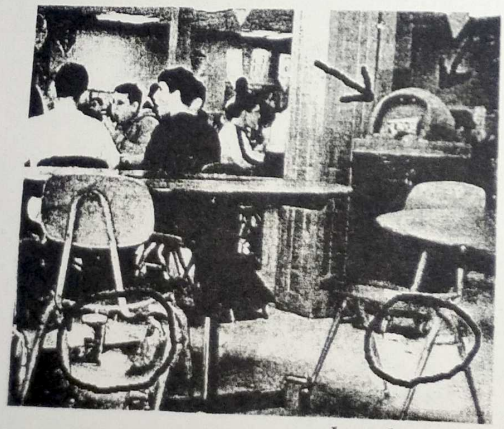


photo by Porter
A cafeteria trash can surrounded by litter long forgotten.

McClain on Trash

"There are 16 trash cans in the cafeteria. I just can't understand why you would leave food on the table to draw ants and mice. I guess it's one way to "rebel" against closed campus. There are other ways to rebel. The first part of the school year there were trays on the tables and flipped chairs. It's getting better but they still don't appreciate what they do have.

"You say 'It's the yard people's job to clean up the Pit.' No. Yard people are here to keep up the yards and trim trees, not pick up trash."

McClain on Campus Security

"The best way to improve the campus would be to put us in one big building. What else can you do to this campus? Hire more security or build a fence? Then we look like a prison. We can't guard every exit on the campus, there's too many of them.

"The Assistant Principals have the authority. If they cracked down it would get rid of 30 to 40 percent of the problem. I've taken kids to principals and they get to choose when they serve ISDs. When I went to school you served detentions that day, whether you had work that day, or ride home, or not. They say give students their "due process." If due process isn't working we need to change our thinking. We have a lot of the problems we have because the school board doesn't want to fight the parents.

"I think it would be helpful if the main building lockers were changed to half lockers. That way no one would have to share lockers and kids wouldn't need to get in their cars every hour. We take more chances by letting you in your car. There were three school shootings in two days this week. It only takes one.

"I watch that Pit every day, every hour because if I see a gun I'll walk right out that gate. I'm not wearing a (bullet proof) vest. I doubt I'll even do that. I'll probably run and try to get it. I've never decided. I hope it doesn't happen but the chance is always there. You have to be prepared for the unexpected.

"I took a Samurai Sword out of a trunk last year. We searched the vehicle because some said they saw a pistol."

McClain on Smoking

"I could care less if you smoke (McClain pulls out a pack of GPCs and re-

the life of

story

turns them to his shirt pocket) but I have to go with the rules set by the Board of Education. Illinois gives the school board the power to make all schools in the district nonsmoking areas. I'm here to enforce that. You're here to learn and you don't have that privilege."

McClain on Name Calling

"I've worked here for five years. Everyone thinks I'm a mean old man. I want to make sure everyone is safe. I'm not harassing you but there's other goals you need to set. Are you learning anything besides how to get around the system? If I see something wrong, should I not say anything or say something and take the consequences?

"I've been called "Pit Nazi" and "Hitler." Names like that let me know I'm doing my job. I'm always going to make somebody mad because people don't want to be told what to do. I can be polite as possible to a parent and tell them they can't do something, and they'll be an angry phone call to the board office about how rude the security officer was."

Closing Thoughts

"It's easier to learn what you need now instead of working 40 hours a week. Believe me - I've ed it.

"In '69 and '70 went to school here. quit school in my 11th year and joined the service. Twenty years I spent serving my country so you could have these rights.

"A lot has changed over the years on discipline. When I was doing something wrong I'd get spanked. Time out isn't working or we wouldn't have the problems we have now. If we said "F" we were gone for two days.

"Sometimes I worry if we're ready to let you guys take over. Look at what we're sending out into the world. There are challenges out there, some of you are ready for it but not all of you."

march 2001

***Writer's note:** McClain successfully completed his GED while enlisted and went to colleges near the bases including University of Hawaii, Colombia College in St. Louis, Lewis and Clark and Maryland University.*

The title 'Unit 6' refers to his call sign on AHS Security System's Walkie Talkies.

Behind the Scenes

With a "Super" Guy

By David Fitzgerald
News Editor

Every day thousands of students attend an Alton public school, but few realize the amount of work that goes into making a school run. Students see teachers and principals hard at work every day, not realizing all of the work going on behind the scenes done by people like Superintendent James Baiter. One day of following such a busy person is really a learning experience.

Baiter's day at the school board office on Broadway starts at 7:00. By 7:45 he is at a meeting of the North Alton and Godfrey Business Council to present Proposition A, one of his top priorities. Following the meeting he discusses Prop A with a diverse group of voters who attended the meeting.

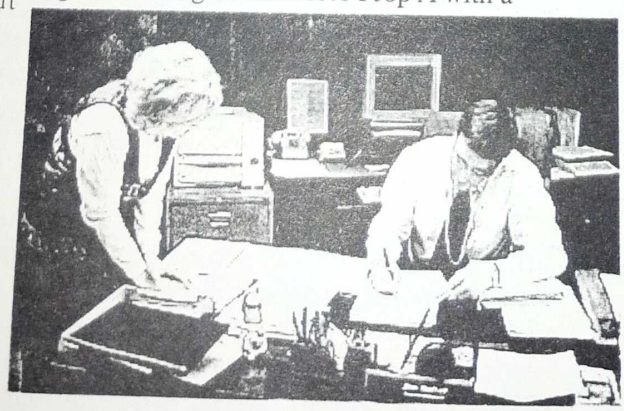


photo by Fitzgerald

Baiter and Walton going over phone messages.

Upon returning to the office, Baiter returns numerous phone calls and had e-mails to write. "This e-mail is great," he said.

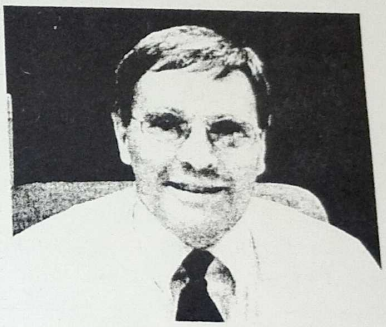


photo by Fitzgerald

Baiter at the office.

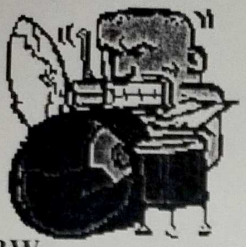
Later he met with Donald Lindsey and Darlene Fearheiley from special education. More students are entering the autism program than before. They discussed where to put a new class for the increase of students.

For lunch he usually goes to different schools. He likes to see teachers and other faculty members he would otherwise not see.

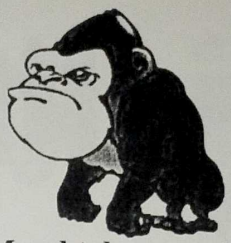
At 1:00 Baiter met with Director of Finance Shirly Eaves about the new Alton Education Foundation. "It is a group that is developed to support the educational programming of the district," Baiter said. "It will help buy materials, equipment, and provide funds for field trips and other educational activities."

After the finance meeting he called *Telegraph* Publisher Jim Screider to talk about Prop A, and finalized plans for an astronaut to visit North Middle School. Before he could go home, Baiter had to go give another presentation about Prop A.

Batetr's Secretary Susan Walton said, "He's a great boss and always busy."



HUMOR



RBW

Marchtoberuary 2001

April Fools' Day satire-packed edition. Calm down.

REALITY TV- We Finally Hit Bottom

By Stephen Heintz
Humor Editor

In the past, if you wanted to spy on someone's personal life, you would have to get all sorts of special CIA-type spy gear, or climb an Elm tree with a pair of binoculars. Fortunately, now we've got reality TV! All the fun of peeping, and as a special bonus, the whole thing is THEMED!!!

Take that wonderful show "Survivor" for instance. Not only do you get to see girls in bikinis and fat, sweaty, hairy old naked men running around an island, but you get to see them eat bugs and dirt and stuff for money! They eat them! HA!

In all seriousness folks, come on. I'm disappointed in you. If I wanted to see someone eat larvae and dirt for money, I'd pay the neighbor kid a quarter. And that's live entertainment. If I wanted to sit and watch the antics of someone's house all day without being able to leave, like on "Big Brother," I'd get mono.

Now I'm sure that there are lots of people out there who just can't get enough of "Temptation Island," but those people have much more serious things to worry about; like learning how to shampoo. I'm sure there are a few legitimate reasons to watch the show. Perhaps one day, you yourself will be stranded on an island surrounded by members of the opposite gender who have been paid to try to have sex with you, and you may need to know how to cope. I know from personal experience that it's a tough time. However, despite the several times I have been put into that very situation, I still wouldn't watch "Temptation Island."

When asked for a comment, Richard, the winner of the first season of "Survivor," promptly removed all of his clothes, to reveal a loincloth made of money.

In order to counter the insanity of today's television, I have created a good old fashioned sitcom. It's called "Ace of Hearts," and it stars Burt Reynolds as an old card shark named Ace who's been forced to live with four *kooky* women who think he's a priest. He has big card games in their kitchen, and he always winds up throwing a sheet over the people playing the game, and putting lampshades on their heads to hide them when his roommates get home. Gary Coleman stars as his son, whose catch phrase will be saying "Daddy, what'chu up to **now**?" as Burt Reynolds tackles him. It should be premiering next fall on the WB. Take that, "Survivor."

NOBODY LIKES THE FRENCH

By Stephen Heintz
Humor Editor

It's been a well-known fact for many years that nobody likes French people. They're just mean. The only people that like them are French students and people who like those stupid little hats and stripy shirts they wear all the time.

Their women don't shave, their attitudes are awful, and they call their perfume "toilet water." In order to try and understand the French mind, I decided to interview one.

RBW- Hey there, Frenchie. Bone appa-tete, eh?
Frenchie- What? What's zat supposed to mean, American? Was zat supposed to be French?
RBW- You know exactly what it means, you swine.
Frenchie- Just why do you hate ze French so much? What iz wrong with you? We are a kind, loving country.
RBW- Why? Why, you ask? I'll tell ya why. Name two good things that've come out of France. I dare ya.
Frenchie- Ha! Simple! For starters, we--
RBW- *Excluding* your toast and fries.
Frenchie- Oh...well...um...we...
RBW- My point exactly. Not only are you all a bunch of cigarette-smoking, chef's hat-wearing--
Frenchie- Now listen 'ere, American. France iz world-renowned for being a place of passion and love. Americans are a bunch of filthy couch-potatoes who wouldn't know romance if it bit zem on ze rear end.
RBW- I'll tell ya what: you have all the passion you want. I'll be busy dating women with shaved legs and armpits.
Frenchie- Zat iz a cultural difference. Not all of them are like zat, either; zat iz an unfair stereotype.
RBW- Let me get this straight, Pierre--
Frenchie- My name isn't--
RBW- You're telling me that you think that it's okay to put **thousands**, perhaps **tens** of thousands of shaving-product factory workers out on the street, just because of your stinking culture?! You make me sick. Get out.
Frenchie- (*as he got up to leave*) You're an idiot.
RBW- Yeah, well at least I'm not French, jerko.

People Smushed Together!

Stephanie Cohill, sophomore

Vince Piazza, sophomore

"Vinephanie"

Mitchell Stumpf, junior

"Mitstina"

Christina Sidwell, sophomore

Photos and renderings by Stacey Garrison

Holes at Alton High

(action figure is four inches tall)

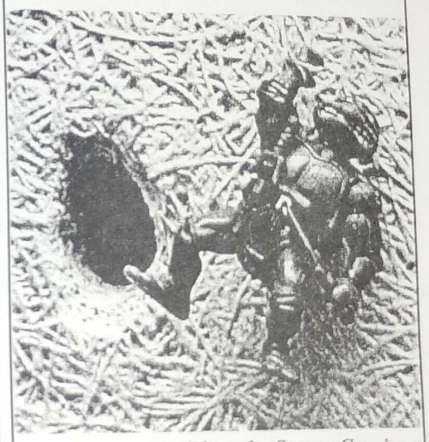
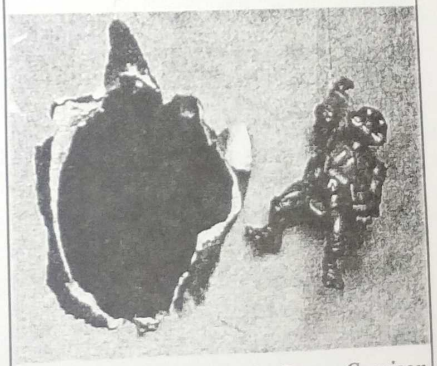


Photo by Stacey Garrison



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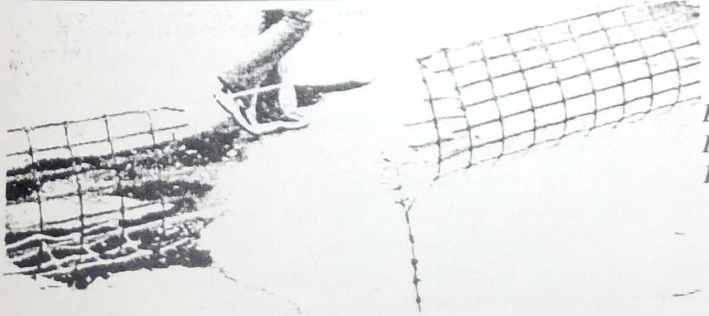


Photo by David Fitzgerald

Movie Calendar

Coming to Theaters

April 6

Buying the Cow
Josie and the Pussycats
Made
**staring Sean "Puffy" Combs*

April 20

Freddy Got Fingered
**starring Tom Green and Drew Barrymore*
Prison Song
**starring Mary J. Blige*

April 27

Kingdom Come
**starring LLCoolJ*
O (Othello)
**starring Julia Stiles and Josh Hartnett*
Wakin' Up in Reno

Now Available on Video

Almost Famous
Charlie's Angels
The Contender
Dancer in the Dark
Meet the Parents
Remember the Titans
Wonder Boys

Fantasy Comes to Life

By Jay Theobald

If you have been to the movies lately, you have probably noticed those cardboard cutouts of a woman standing on top of a clear, liquid surface with ripples around her feet. The cutouts are advertisements for "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within," coming to theaters this summer.

The "Final Fantasy" video games have millions of fans in America alone, making this film highly anticipated.

Directed by Hironobu Sakaguchi, creator of the "Final Fantasy" video game series, the movie will be entirely C.G.I. (computer generated imagery), like "A Bug's Life" and "Toy Story," except the animators are aiming for photo realistic animation.

photo courtesy of yahoo.com

Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within will be released July 13, 2001.

Without a doubt, the animation is beautiful. However, the attention to detail was not cheap. It took the cost of the film to 75 million dollars over budget, but the animation is not without its flaws. Early impressions state that the mouth movement does not look realistic. Furthermore, the script has not been that popular among the critics. Harry Knowles of aintitcool.com said, "If this were a live action movie, it would suck."

'The Mexican' causes mayhem

By Andy Herrin

It seems Brad Pitt's newest film, "The Mexican," has something for everyone. At first, "The Mexican" seems mostly comedic, but the film is a mix of many different genres. Most of the trailers for "The Mexican" are humorous, but the film has its serious side as well.

The film begins with a couple fighting. Jerry's (Pitt) girlfriend Samantha (Julia Roberts) brings comedy to the film, but "The Mexican" travels from comedy to romance to suspense. "I thought it was just a stupid love movie, but it actually turned out pretty cool," said freshman Brandon Marshall.

photo courtesy of yahoo.com

Pitt and Roberts star together for the the first time in 'The Mexican.'

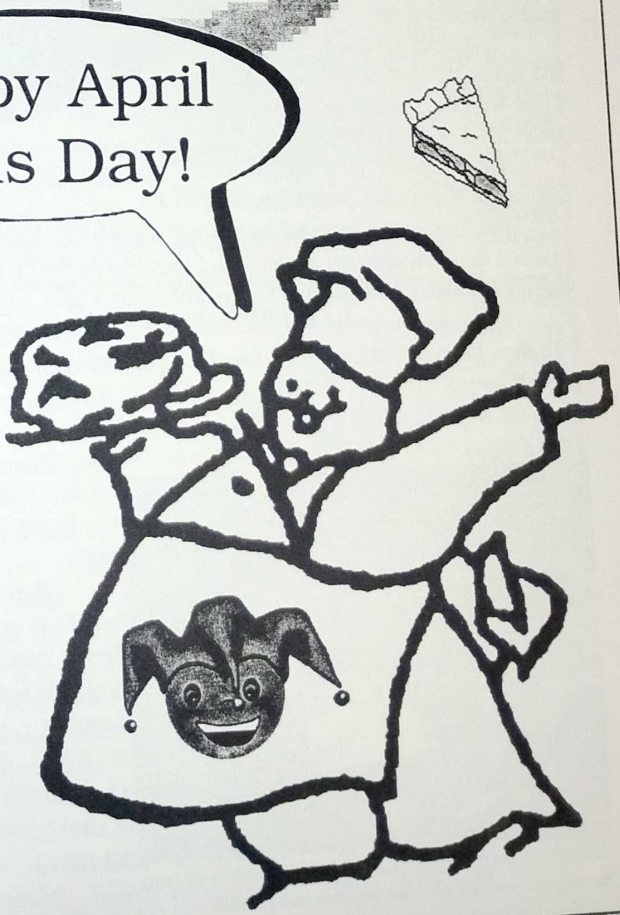
The idea for the film starts simple but grows complicated as the film progresses. Jerry has promised Samantha that he will take her to Vegas to marry her. He has also promised her that he will quit his job as an interceptor of stolen materials. Something goes wrong, and Pitt has to go to another job to get a gun called "The Mexican." Everything that could go wrong does. To make matters worse, his girlfriend is kidnapped by a hit man. That leaves it up to Pitt to finish your job and save his girlfriend. "I didn't know there was so much to the movie," said sophomore Kenny Ross.

"The Mexican" rather funny, suspenseful, or romantic, is a good mix of many things. The film is very unique.

Duke Bakery

"The official bakery of the RedBird Word!"

Celebrating 50 years of business in Alton!



Duke Bakery
819 Henry Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 462-2922

Redbirds Rock in Post-Season

By Keion Lacey

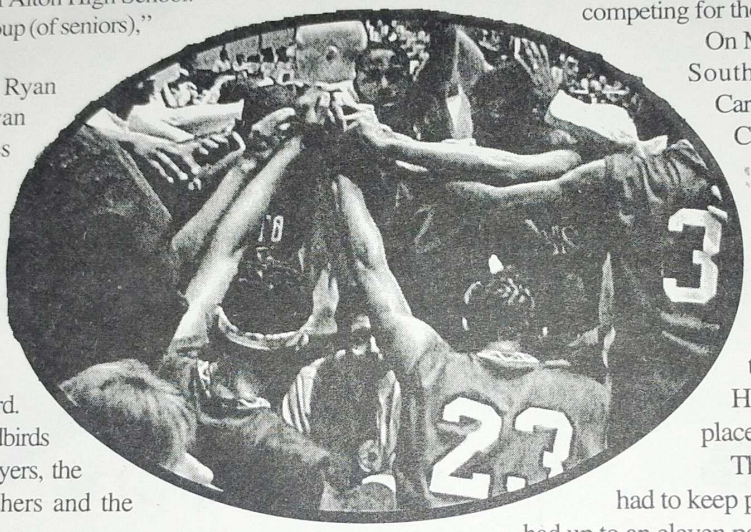
The Alton Redbirds, coached by third year Head Coach Mike Brey started out on a quest this season to go further than any other basketball team in the history of Alton High School.

"This is a very special group (of seniors)," said Brey.

Myron (Dusty) Baker, Ryan Durham, Blaine Everage, Ryan Everage, Keion Lacey, James Mays, Jo'van Smith, Michael Stockard and T.J. West are all seniors who have helped the Redbirds get this far, one way or another.

"We have to go out everyday and take care of business," said senior center Michael Stockard.

That is exactly what the Redbirds did against the East St. Louis Flyers, the Triad Knights, the Jersey Panthers and the Belleville West Maroons.



The Redbird's were seeded second due to a loss to the Collinsville Kahoks, 48- 50, on Jan. 6.

The Redbird first game for the regional was a BYE. Then on March 2 the Birds defeated the East St. Louis Flyers, 97-75, and won the Regional Championship for the sixth straight year.

"I was happy to get back at them for last year," said Stockard. " To show them how it feels to get beat by 20 or more points in a play-off game."

On March 7 the Redbirds defeated the number three seed, Triad Knights, 63-55, to move on to play for the Sectional Championship against the Jersey Panthers.

Redbird fans celebrate after Carbondale win

The number four seed, Jersey Panthers, had defeated the number one seed, Collinsville Kahoks, on March 6.

Then on March 9 Alton beat the Jersey Panthers, 57-52, to capture their third Sectional Championship in 46 years.

The Redbirds were then in the Sweet Sixteen. Which means that they were one of 16 team left in the state of Illinois competing for the first place trophy.

On March 13 the Redbirds went to Southern Illinois University of Carbondale for the Super- Sectional Championship game against the conference champs, the Belleville West Maroons.

The Redbirds had lost to the Maroons twice this season on Dec. 21, 62-64, and Feb. 2, 63-72, but they defeated the Maroons at the Centralia Holiday Tournament for the fifth place trophy, 65-60.

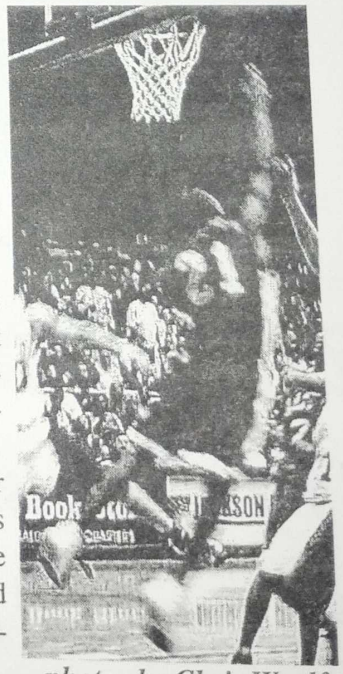
Throughout the game the Maroons had to keep playing catch-up. The Redbirds had up to an eleven point lead on the Maroons. Then in the third quarter the Maroons grabbed ahold of the lead for a brief second. Then the Redbirds got hot in the fourth quarter and won the game, 62-59.

Michael Stockard had 21 points with eight out of 11 baskets and teammate Ryan Everage had 16 points that night, scoring eight of those points in the fourth quarter to help the Redbirds win the Super- Sectional.

The Redbirds then traveled to Peoria on March 16 for the Elite Eight to play the winner of the Chicago Public League, Chicago Morgan Park Mustangs.

The game was played at Carver Arena in Peoria at 12:15. The Redbirds trailed the Mustangs the entire game and in the third quarter Alton outscored the Mustangs 20-11 to be tied at 40-40.

The Redbirds kept battling but eventually lost the game 64 to-50.

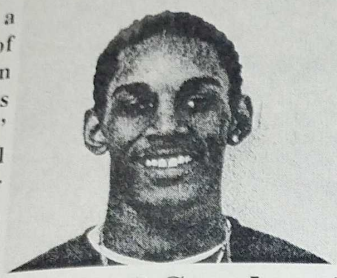


photos by Chris Woulfe

Blaine Everage does a reverse layup

Top Winter Athletes

Boys' Basketball



Michael Stockard
Senior

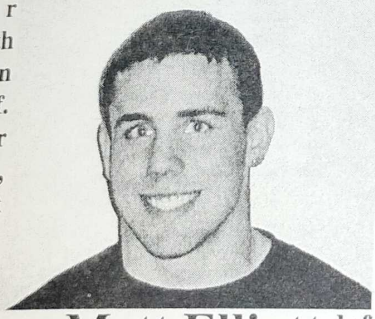
Michael Stockard has been a member of the Alton Redbirds Boys' Basketball Team for three years. Michael transfered from Bunker Hill after his freshman season. Stockard has been one of the key players for the 2000-2001 basketball season. He is the starting center for the team. Stockard averages 17.7 points per game and has over 100 blocks this season. "Going to state is the best experience a high school senior could ever ask for," said Alton's senior center Michael Stockard.

Girls' Basketball

Michelle McCrady
Sophomore

Michelle McCrady was the top scorer for the 2000-2001 season on the Alton Redbirds girls' basketball team. Michelle played for the freshman team last season and started for varsity this past season. "The best thing this season was winning our first conference game in three years on senior night," said McCrady.

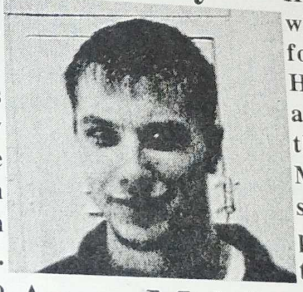
Wrestling



Matt Elliott
Senior

Matt Elliott sat out his junior season with a torn rotator cuff. His senior season, Elliott went the whole season undefeated with a record of 30-0. At the regionals Elliott had his first loss from Edwardsville. He placed second in regionals and went to sectionals. There he was defeated by a wrestler from Jacksonville.

Hockey



Amos Melvin
Senior

Amos Melvin was the captain of the hockey team for the 2000-2001 season. He has been a varsity player for the Alton High Hockey team for four years. Melvin has also played for the Granite City Steelers Midget AA. He plays the wing position for Alton High. He was a key player this season. Melvin had to sit out the last play-off game this season, against the Edwardsville Tigers, due to an eye injury.

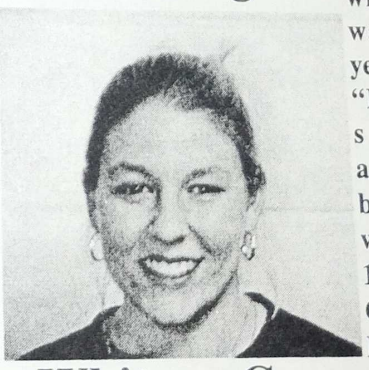
Swimming

Michael Crammond
Senior

Michael Crammond started swimming when he was seven years old. He was influenced by his older brother.

At the state meet this year Michael received first in the 100 yard breaststroke and another first in the 100 yard butterfly. He also raced in two relays at the state meet, and received third in one and first in the other.

Bowling



Whitney Cox
Senior

Senior Whitney Cox has accomplished her goal for this season. Cox won first place in state for bowling. This is the biggest award she has ever won in bowling. Cox has been bowling for eleven years. Her father got her into the Saturday Morning Youth League at Bowl Haven when she was seven years old. "I got serious about bowling when I was 13," said Cox. Last year Cox traveled with a league in the St. Louis Area. "It felt good winning state," said Cox.

Cuddle Up With Courtney

By: Courtney Mathus

What is the best April Fool's prank?

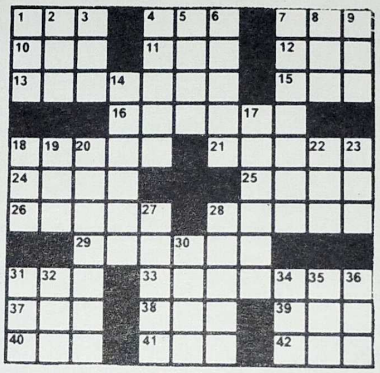
"Put a rubber band or tape around the detachable sprayer on the kitchen sink. When someone turns the sink on, it will spray that person." -Jeremy Yates (12)

"Me and a friend printed up a "fake" pass to Six Flags and gave it to another friend. He went to Six Flags, had no money in his pocket, and had to go home!" -Drew Marshall (11)

"Convince a neighborhood that you are the government, and that a road needs to go straight through their homes. Forge business cards and compensation checks, and tell them to evacuate within a month. After court proceedings, move into the neighborhood and demolish all their homes." -Stephen Heintz (12)

ACROSS

1. An advanced degree in business.
4. Surface layer of ground containing a matt of grass and grass roots.
7. Promotional materials in newspapers
10. Starting to droop
11. A Dalton (physics)
12. ___ Angeles
13. Living with (in a hut)
15. Talk (slang)
16. Change mind
18. Douroucoulis
21. A fencing sword with a v-shaped blade and a slightly curved handle
24. Regretted
25. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
26. Brook or small stream
28. ___ Bunch
29. Jam-spread sponge cake soaked in wine served with custard sauce
31. A pituitary hormone that stimulates the function of the thyroid gland
33. Speaking (formal)
37. Own (Scottish)
38. The most exalted being
39. Not happy
40. Largest English dictionary, abbr.
41. The length of time something (or someone) has existed
42. Woman (French)



DOWN

1. Manuscripts, abbr.
2. Humbug
3. Honorable title (Turkish)
4. Behalfs
5. Divination
6. Guys, pals (slang)
7. Math class
8. Was dead when arrived
9. Sino-Soviet block, abbr.
14. More artless, belches louder
17. At top of house just below roof
18. A continuous portion of a circle
19. "___ Town"
20. What baby did to be able to bite
22. Finish
23. Beam out, as from the sun
27. Lake in Uganda
28. The part of the skate that slides on the ice
30. Frequently dissected animal
31. Tai
32. Car mechanics group
34. A doctrine (suffix)
35. Veterans battleground
36. Haiti

Horoscopes

Aries (March 21- April 19): Be careful not to talk about yourself too much. This month you will tend to feel more self-centered.

Taurus (April 20- May 20): Your imagination is more active than usual. Your daydreams have been more bizarre than reality. It will be over soon.

Gemini (May 21- June 20): Don't be afraid to speak up if you don't understand. There is no such thing as a dumb question.

Cancer (June 21- July 22): Your opinions are important so don't keep them to yourself. Decisions have already been made, but there's still room for your input.

Leo (July 23- Aug. 22): You may get an increase in your paycheck if you ask for it.

Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept. 22): Catch up on your reading. You may find something you didn't know about in a stack of old magazines.

Libra (Sept. 23- Oct. 22): Hold off on a major purchase, especially if it's for someone else.

Scorpio (Oct. 23- Nov. 21): If things aren't going the way you expected, relax. Leave some room for flexibility and relaxation.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22- Dec. 21): You're such a sweetie! If someone is suffering, you care so much that you are too.

Capricorn (Dec. 22- Jan. 19): It wouldn't hurt to e-mail a faraway friend. They've been waiting to hear from you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20- Feb. 18): Listening is very important in a friendship. If someone has something to say, be sure to direct your full attention.

Pisces (Feb. 19- March 20): You may notice an improvement in your attitude. Go out with friends to celebrate!